

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in the above-identified application, for which a Petition to Withdraw from Issue under 37 C.F.F. § 1.313(c) and a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.F. § 1.114, have been filed, in order to correct the application with respect to priority data.

By this amendment, the first paragraph of the specification has been amended in order to properly reflect that the present application also claims priority to EP 01870053.4, filed March 16, 2001, EP 00870132.8, filed June 16, 2000, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/258,415, filed December 27, 2000.

Applicants submit herewith, a copy of the cover page of PCT/EP01/06833 (published as WO 01/96580 A2), upon which the above-identified application was filed as a continuation-in-part (CIP). In essence, Applicants have corrected the priority data in this application to reflect the Priority Data of parent application PCT/EP01/06833.

Submitted herewith is a supplemental declaration, executed by the inventors of the above-identified application in order to correct the priority data of the application. The supplemental declaration adds as a priority claim EP 01870053.4, filed March 16, 2001, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/258,415, filed December 27, 2000.

Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered into the above-identified application, and that the supplemental priority data **be reflected on the cover of any patent issuing from the above-identified application.** Submitted herewith, is the filing receipt of the above-identified application, marked up with the corrected priority data. Upon granting of the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.313(c), and re-opening prosecution in the above-identified application via the RCE submitted herewith, Applicants will request a corrected filing receipt from the U.S. PTO.

Applicants are currently in the process of obtaining a certified copy of EP 01870053.4 and will forward the same to the Examiner forthwith in order to perfect Applicants' claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) (3).

Respectfully submitted,



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(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
20 December 2001 (20.12.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/96580 A2(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C12N 15/82

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP01/06833

(22) International Filing Date: 18 June 2001 (18.06.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

00870132.8	✓	16 June 2000 (16.06.2000)	EP
60/258,415	✓	27 December 2000 (27.12.2000)	US
01870053.4	✓	16 March 2001 (16.03.2001)	EP

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SI, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

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WO 01/96580 A2

(54) Title: METHOD FOR MODIFYING PLANT MORPHOLOGY, BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHYSIOLOGY

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to methods for stimulating root growth and/or enhancing the formation of lateral or adventitious roots and/or altering root geotropism comprising expression of a plant cytokinin oxidase or comprising expression of another protein that reduces the level of active cytokinins in plants or plant parts. The invention also relates to novel plant cytokinin oxidase proteins, nucleic acid sequences encoding cytokinin oxidase proteins as well as to vectors, host cells, transgenic cells and plants comprising said sequences. The invention also relates to the use of said sequences for improving root-related characteristics including increasing yield and/or enhancing early vigor and/or modifying root/shoot ratio and/or improving resistance to lodging and/or increasing drought tolerance and/or promoting in vitro propagation of explants and/or modifying cell fate and/or plant development and/or plant morphology and/or plant biochemistry and/or plant physiology. The invention also relates to the use of said sequences in the above-mentioned methods. The invention also relates to methods for identifying and obtaining proteins and compounds interacting with cytokinin oxidase proteins. The invention also relates to the use of said compounds as a plant growth regulator or herbicide.